

Appln No. 10/754,009
Amdt date January 19, 2007
Reply to Office action of August 22, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached 4 sheets of annotated drawings includes changes to FIGs. 1, 6, 8, and 10. The attached 4 sheets of replacement drawings, which includes FIGs. 1, 6, 8, and 10, replaces the original 4 sheets including FIGs. 1, 6, 8, and 10.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, and 11-12 are amended and claim 10 is canceled.

The Abstract is objected to. In view of the amendments to the Abstract, it is respectfully requested that the above objection be withdrawn.

The specification is objected to because of informalities. In view of the amendments to the specification, it is respectfully requested that the above objections be withdrawn.

The disclosure is objected to because "it appears that the processes shown in Figures 6, 8, and 10 require a step in which the counter is initialized ($C_{n-1} = 0$).\" Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art would readily understand that initializing a counter is implied and understood from the above Figures. However, as the Examiner suggested the implied step of ($C_{n-1} = 0$) has been added to the above Figures and the accompanying text. No new matter is added. In view of the above-mentioned amendments, it is respectfully requested that the above objections be withdrawn.

The drawings are objected to under CFR 1.83(a) and 1.84 (p)(4). In view of the amendments to the drawings, it is respectfully requested that the above objections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 are objected to because of informalities. In view of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully requested that the above objections be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi (US 5,912,512). Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of Yasuo (JP 08-15902); and claims 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of Tado et al. (US 5,973,411). Applicant submits that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the following reasons, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "said remote engine starter receives said interrogating signal for a second time when said remote engine starter code

is not output or said remote engine starter code does not match said remote engine starter verifying code, and said engine start permitting signal is output when said interrogating signal is no longer received for a predetermined time." This feature adds yet another layer of security. Hayashi does not teach this limitation.

Rather, the inquiry signal (TXCT) of Hayashi is only received once for a given operation. See, for example, steps 206, 208, and 210 of FIG. 4, and the related text (col. 3, lines 3 - 25). Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Hayashi.

Amended independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "an activation signal outputting section which outputs an activation signal to a key cylinder upon receiving an engine starting signal by an IG key," an "immobilizer output[ing] an activation signal and said interrogating signal upon receiving said engine starting signal, determines whether or not a key code matches a preregistered code in said immobilizer upon receiving said key code output in response to said activation signal, and determines whether or not said remote engine starter code matches said preregistered code in said immobilizer, when said immobilizer receives a remote engine starter code output in response to said interrogating signal." None of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above limitations.

As agreed by the Examiner, Hayashi does not teach an activation signal outputting section and an activation signal as claimed. Further, Hayashi does not disclose an immobilizer that "determines whether or not a key code matches a preregistered code in said immobilizer upon receiving said key code output in response to said activation signal, and determines whether or not said remote engine starter code matches said preregistered code in said immobilizer, when said immobilizer receives a remote engine starter code output in response to said interrogating signal." Rather, the only "code checking" that Hayashi teaches is "check input code with normal codes" that is, step 308 in FIG. 5 and the related text.

Tado does not cure this deficiency of Hayashi. Tado's system checks an inputted ID code with a stored code and if collated, adds the rolling code to the ID code to generate data (engine start enabling signal) to be sent. (see, FIG. 2, and col. 8, lines 6-35.) Therefore, Tado, alone or in combination with Hayashi, does not teach or suggest "determin[ing] whether or not a key code

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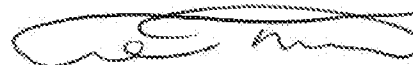
matches a preregistered code in said immobilizer upon receiving said key code output in response to said activation signal, and determin[ing] whether or not said remote engine starter code matches said preregistered code in said immobilizer, when said immobilizer receives a remote engine starter code output in response to said interrogating signal." As a result amended independent claim 7 is patentable in view of cited references.

Dependent claims 2-6, 11, 8-9 and 12 are dependent from allowable independent claims 1 and 7, respectively and therefore include all the limitations of their base claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable over the cited references, as being dependent from an allowable independent claim and for the additional limitations they include therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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RRT/clv